

DECEMBER 8, 1963

TIMES RT-1-4355 HERALD
OFFICER SAYS
 DECEMBER 8, 1963
HE SAW RUBY

BREWING MAYHEM - WH6-5892

A Dallas police officer said Saturday that he saw self-appointed executioner Jack Ruby come through the Main Street entrance of the City Hall basement minutes before he fired a fatal, point-blank shot into the body of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The officer, stationed near the armored car at the Commerce Street exit from the basement, told The Times Herald:

"Jack Ruby, Oswald's assassin, came from the north (Main Street) entrance down the ramp. There were many police officers and press representatives in the area.

"Ruby jumped out of the crowd as Oswald passed and fired one shot point-blank at Oswald."

How Ruby entered the City Hall basement has been subject of an extensive investigation within the police department. No official explanation has been made, and police officials have declined comment on reports that several officers have been asked to take lie-detector tests in connection with the probe.

STORIES MATCH

The officer's story matches that of Ruby as told through his attorney Tom Howard. There has been speculation that Ruby had waited in the basement, mingling with members of the press until Oswald stepped into the basement parking area.

An officer on duty at the Main Street exit said he had not seen Ruby enter the basement.

The officer said he had been

on guard at the Main Street exit for two and one half hours prior to the shooting and had admitted no one but police officers and press representatives. Everyone, he said, was required to show identification.

In another development, the owner of a public gun range said Saturday the FBI had taken pounds of empty shells in an attempt to confirm that Oswald had

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practiced shooting there as recently as five days before the assassination of President Kennedy.

Floyd Davis, owner of the Sportsdrome Gun Range near Grand Prairie, said neither he nor his wife, Virginia, had ever seen Oswald at the range.

"But there were three different people here at three different times who told us about seeing Oswald," Davis said.

Meanwhile, an 18-year-old self-styled Nazi from Arlington, Va., was marched into the Dallas police department, accompanied by a detective carrying a near-blitzed "dummy" of Cuban strongman Fidel Castro.

The youth wore a brown shirt and a Swastika arm band. He said, he was "just trying to inform the American people."

CASTRO-BLAMED

A sign affixed to the Castro edifice blamed the Cuban dictator for President John F. Kennedy's assassination and urged an invasion of the Communist-controlled island.

The Secret Service arrived minutes later and clamped a security lid on the Dallas Police Department's special services bureau.

It was also learned Saturday that an early suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy was still in jail—but no longer as a suspect in the killing.

The man, a 31-year-old man who gave a Knight Street address, was arrested minutes after the assassination when officers swarmed railroad yards near the assassination scene.

A man was reported seen in that area carrying a rifle.

STILL IN JAIL

The suspect was unarmed when arrested but booked, along with others arrested in the hectic hours following the assassination, on charges of "investigation of conspiracy to commit murder."

The investigative charges were dropped Monday morning but the man was held in jail on "city charges."

And in another phase of the investigation, authorities still declined to comment on a possible link between the President's assassination and a sniper's shot at former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker last spring.

Oswald's widow is reported to have told authorities her husband boasted of firing a shot at Mr. Walker last April 10, and there were reports that the ex-general's name and telephone number were found in a book recovered among Oswald's possessions.

The shot barely missed the general as he sat in the study of his home on Turtle Creek Boulevard.

December 11, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Subject: Interview with Mr. Darwin Payne,
Reporter for Dallas Times Herald

Sir:

On December 10, 1963, Lieutenant F. I. Cornwall and Lieutenant Jack Revill interviewed Mr. Darwin Payne in regards to an article that was written by him and printed in the Dallas Times Herald, December 8, 1963. Mr. Payne stated that on Saturday, December 7, 1963, at about 1:30 p.m. he called Sergeant P. T. Dean at home and told him that he was assigned to verify an article written by Mr. David Hughes and published in the Times Herald shortly after the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Payne said that he then read the article written by Mr. David Hughes to Sergeant Dean (copy of these notes are attached to the interview of David Hughes) and asked him if this was about the way it was or if there were any changes he would like to make. Sergeant Dean advised him that he did not have any changes to make from the original interview given Mr. Hughes. The article written by Mr. Payne which appeared in the Dallas Times Herald on December 8, 1963, states "Officer says he saw Ruby". In regard to this statement I asked Mr. Payne if Sergeant Dean had made this statement, that he had seen Jack Ruby come down the North ramp and Mr. Payne replied that Sergeant Dean did not say this but that he merely verified what had been written in the first article.

When asked how this mistake was made, Mr. Payne stated that it was probably done by the rewrite man.

At the time of this interview, Mr. Payne said he had been questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

F. I. Cornwall
F. I. Cornwall, Lieutenant
Special Service Bureau

Jack Revill
Jack Revill, Lieutenant
Special Service Bureau

FIC:nw

Enclosure - Copy of article in Dallas Times Herald

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